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NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION  
State College, New Mexico

8-1-47  
No. 253

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

AAA CONSERVATION

PROGRAM RESTORED - The Agricultural Conservation Program is in full swing again, according to C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the State P.M.A. Committee. "Congress has appropriated funds enough to cover all commitments made to farmers and ranchers for ACP practices carried out under the 1947 program. Congress also has authorized a 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program to the extent of 150 million dollars," Mr. Hemphill reported.

"The continuation of the program may be attributed largely to support given it by city folks who realize that the protection of our soil and water resources is a public responsibility," he continued.

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PMA REORGANIZATION

- Jessie B. Gilmer, a graduate of the New Mexico College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts is Administrator for the Production and Marketing Administration. Serving under him are three assistant administrators. These are: Assistant Administrator for Production, Assistant Administrator for Marketing, and Assistant Administrator for Commodity Credit Corporation. Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has been removed from PMA and is now a separate agency of the Department. Field Service Branch, together with its regional offices, has been abolished as such. An Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch has been established within PMA under the Assistant Administrator for Production. It will be the responsibility of this Branch, working with State and county offices, to formulate Agricultural Conservation Programs. This Branch will carry on at the Washington level the work previously performed by the Field Service Branch in connection with the development and operation of the Agricultural Conservation Program. The program will continue to be administered in the field by State and county committees under the authority and direction of the Assistant Administrator for Production.

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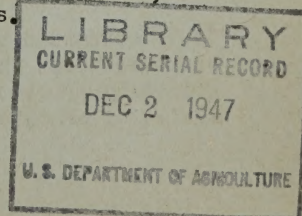
STATE PMA AND COUNTY

ACA OFFICES

- These offices and committees are the key units in the Production and Marketing Administration for the formulation of policies and programs and for the carrying out of programs requiring farmer participation assigned to these offices for administration. Such programs will include:

- (1) Agricultural conservation and adjustment program, farm marketing quotas, crop insurance operations, as assigned, sugar payment and related production programs;
- (2) Price Support, loan, subsidy, purchase, sale and related Commodity Credit Corporation operations which are assigned to these offices;
- (3) Other programs which require direct dealings with farmers.

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ANDERSON SEES NEED FOR  
INCREASED CONSERVATION

- Calling for a speed-up of conservation work, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson warns that otherwise the erosion and flood destruction of our productive topsoil may well lead to lower living standards.

"Flood control is a job that starts where run-off begins," the Secretary said. "It includes treating the land in whatever way will obtain maximum infiltration of rainfall into soil consistent with the capability of the land for the production of crops, pasture, and forests.

"It includes the safe and useful disposal of run-off from fields and slopes through stable waterways and the temporary detention of part of the run-off in upland storage basins where necessary and practicable.

"Flood control measures fit in well with other conservation and forestry practices designed to retain and build up soil fertility, make farming operations easier, increase production and maintain farm and forest lands in stable condition.

"These measures are good business for farm, ranch, and forest owners and for the urban populations downstream who depend upon the land for food, clothing, and shelter, and whose investments are protected by more stable stream-flow in the waterways that serve them...

"The over-all job of improving the Nation's watersheds to reduce flood and sedimentation damage is just begun. It must be expanded and speeded up if our soil resources are to be protected and maintained."

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SECRETARY ANNOUNCES

PEANUT QUOTAS - A peanut marketing quota of 760,000 tons for the 1948 crop has been proclaimed by the Secretary.

The national acreage allotment will be 2,324,159 acres, compared with an average of 3,243,000 acres picked and thrashed during 1942-46. The allotment is based on a base period production of 654 pounds per acre.

The proclamation is based on the following: Disappearance of cleaned and shelled peanuts in 1942-46 averaged 673,000 tons of farmers' stock peanuts. About 100,000 tons of this average included wartime purchases of peanuts and peanut products by the armed services, plus exports. This military demand no longer exists and disappearance from the 1948 crop may be only about 579,000 tons, or about the same as for that of the 1946 crop. Added to this figure to make up the quota will be 141,000 tons required for feed, seed, and home use on farms which produce peanuts; and 40,000 tons for damaged peanuts.

It is estimated that this year's crop will amount to 3,136,000 acres picked and thrashed. The 1947 crop will be supported at 90 percent of parity. Commodity Credit Corporation will be required by law to purchase large quantities of peanuts from this year's crop, and to crush these peanuts for oil,



unless consumption of edible peanuts (the bulk of the crop) increases materially above present prospects. At present world prices for oil, CCC stands to lose a substantial sum.

A referendum must be held not later than December 15, 1947, to determine whether producers favor the 1948 quota. A two-thirds favorable vote would put quotas and price support in effect for 3 years.

Last year Congress dispensed with quotas on the 1947 crop by a joint resolution.

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#### POTATOES PUT

TO GOOD USE - Purchases of potatoes to support prices up to July 1 amounted to 1,087,439 hundredweight. Of this amount, 809,510 hundredweight have been diverted to charitable institutions, to the school lunch program, for starch manufacture, and livestock feed.

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#### U.K. BUYS MORE

DRIED EGGS - More than 5 million additional pounds of dried whole eggs will be sold to the British Government, says the Agriculture Department. The new order will be filled from stocks acquired by the Government under the price-support program.

This purchase makes a total of over 38 million pounds of dried eggs obtained by the British this year, 33 million of which were purchased through a procurement program.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION  
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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

IS IT HAPPENING HERE? - In a relatively few hours Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson saw what has happened in Europe and what is happening in this country. He had this to say about the comparison:

"Europe provides a striking example of what it means in terms of living standards to have soil resources inadequate in relation to population. Europe reached this situation through population increases beyond the ability of the land to supply adequate food...

"Some of our most productive lands, particularly the rich Missouri and central Mississippi River basins, have again suffered extensive and irreparable damage by flooding, sedimentation, and erosion. This continued destruction of our productive topsoil by erosion and deposits of unproductive soil on rich bottom-lands by flooding may well lead to lower living standards in this country if we do not speed up every phase of conservation work."

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LARGE PRODUCTION CALLS FOR MORE

CONSERVATION, SAYS BRANNAN - This Nation can produce all the things people want in the quantities they desire, Charles F. Brannan, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture recently told the National Resources Economic Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Public Lands.

If we are going to save our soil and put it on a sustained production basis, however, we must make the kinds of shifts which are called for by this long-range program of abundant production, Mr. Brannan pointed out.

"To produce what people want...we would have to use about 300 million acres for intertilled and close-growing crops. Of that amount about 180 million was subject to some erosion damage...Only about 120 million acres could be used without some damage, pending the adoption of considerably better management systems and practices.

"Gradually, however, under a pattern of production emphasizing soil-conserving practices and livestock enterprises, we could produce in abundance and bring the soil budget into balance. Eventually, by adapting our land to its best use and protecting it properly, we can have close to 450 million acres suitable for continuous use as cropland.

"Although during the war farmers increased their use of lime and phosphate and their use of various practices such as contour farming, strip cropping, and turning under green manure, the soil requirements still call for double, five times, and even greater increases in use of these materials and practices.

"War undoubtedly took a toll of our resources. But even in peacetime we have never used...systems of soil and forest management that will sustain permanent, high-level productivity in this Nation...We must change our course."

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PRICE SUPPORT

PROGRAMS IN EFFECT - Farmers who wish to take advantage of certain of the price-support programs should get in touch with their county agricultural conservation committees, says \_\_\_\_\_, chairman of the county committee. That is necessary, he says, because some of the programs require farmers to file an application and complete other formalities before they can get a Commodity Credit Corporation loan, sell their product to the Government, or get an agreement from the Government to buy their product later on. Among the crops whose price is supported by dealing directly with the farmer are: wheat, oats, barley, grain sorghums, dry beans, peanuts, cotton, potatoes, and turkeys.

No announcements have yet been made about sweetpotatoes or chickens.

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FARMERS COME CLOSE

TO THEIR GOALS - Farmers of this country have reached 97 percent of the planting goals that were set for this year, according to a report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Corn, which is being watched so closely, is within 6 percent of the acreage goal. Farmers overshot the wheat goal by 9 percent, and growing conditions are especially favorable. Plantings of oats came to 96 percent of the acreage goal this year. Corn, oats, and wheat are the cereal crops that are expected to amount to more than a billion bushels each this year.

The hay acreage came through the winter well so that 99 percent of the acreage goal is expected. The flax acreage goal was almost double that of last year and farmers came within 15 percent of making it. Potato planting came to 89 percent of the goal and peanut plantings went up to 111 percent of the goal.

Sows farrowed in the spring of 1947 reached 95 percent of the goal, with farrowing somewhat higher than the year before. About the same percentage of farrowings are expected with the fall pig crop.

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SUMMARY OF

PEANUT PROGRAMS - Beginning with the 1937 crop there has either been a loan or a purchase program for each peanut crop. The first four years there were diversion programs. The next two, 1941 and 1942, there were marketing quotas and a two-price system as a part of the diversion program. The next two years the crops were bought outright by the Commodity Credit Corporation and sold to shellers, crushers and others. The 1946 and 1947 program provides the same price support for peanuts, whether edible or for oil.

The 1948 program includes measures to bring the production of peanuts back into line with the needs of the country. To do that the Secretary of Agriculture has announced a marketing quota for the 1948 crop of 760 thousand tons. A referendum of growers will be held on the question before December 15. If two-thirds of the growers vote in favor, the quota will be in effect for three years. To the growers of peanuts this means that, if the vote is favorable, the 1948 crop will be supported at 90 percent of parity.

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MULES REPLACE MEXICAN OXEN - Score one for the useful mule, thought by some people to be outmoded in these days of technological advances.

Mules are immune to foot-and-mouth disease, so ever-increasing numbers are being shipped from the United States and northern Mexico to aid farmers whose oxen have been sacrificed in the disease-eradication campaign in central areas.

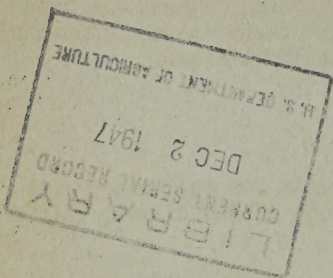
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BEEES AVAILABLE FOR

POLLINATING - Honey bees are the most important agents for pollinating our legume crops. Without pollination there would be no crops of red clover, alfalfa, lespedeza, and other legume crops.

This year there are 5 million 910 thousand colonies of bees on the farms of this country. That is a little more than last year...and more than a third more than in 1940. There were increases in the number of colonies of bees in all sections of the country except the South Atlantic.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION  
State College, New Mexico

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NEW MEXICO

WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

LET US NOT NEGLECT

HER COMPLEXION - Mr. Farmer, do you know that millions of dollars are spent each year by manufacturers in research and sales campaigns in connection with cosmetics for women's complexions?....Yet the face of Mother Earth is constantly growing wrinkled and scarred by the ravages of erosion. The unwise use of land by man is rapidly changing the complexion of the earth from one of beautiful forests, smooth green pastures, and fertile valleys to ghost-like monuments of desolation.

All mankind depends on Mother Earth. Let us not neglect her complexion. Participate in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

REPORT PER-

FORMANCE EARLY - Mr. C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the New Mexico State PMA Committee, urges all farmers and ranchers to complete their conservation practices as early as possible to avoid payment delay.

"Due to a reduction of funds, county ACA offices do not have sufficient help to handle the peak load which usually occurs in November and December," he said.

MORE PERMANENT

PASTURES NEEDED - \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman of the \_\_\_\_\_ County Agricultural Conservation Association Committee, today reminded farmers that establishment of permanent pastures is one of the practices under the Agricultural Conservation Program.

"Permanent pastures provide a year-around cover for land and prevent excessive wind and water erosion," he stated. "At the same time they provide the forage needed for dairy and livestock programs."

TWO-THIRDS NATION'S SMALL

GRAIN CROP NOW COMBINED - Over two-thirds of this year's large crop of small grains will be harvested by combines—a decade ago only a fourth was so harvested, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

In 1945, a survey by crop reporters showed that 80 percent of the wheat, 40 percent of the oats, 65 percent of the barley, 50 percent of the rye, 60 percent of the flaxseed, 35 percent of the buckwheat, and 40 percent of the rice was combined. In 1938, combines harvested only half the wheat and a tenth of the oats.

About 400,000 combines were used in the 1945 harvest, and at least 20 percent



more will be used in 1947. Most of the combines on farms have been bought in the last ten years. In the late twenties sales were fairly high and reached a peak of 20,000 in 1929—then dropped and remained low for several years, not reaching the 1929 figure again until 1937. Since then farmers have bought about 40,000 combines a year.

Combines were first used in California and the Pacific Northwest in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Their use did not spread much until after World War I. These were large horse-drawn machines with wheel traction for operating the thresher unit. Smaller tractor-drawn combines with mounted motors were introduced in the Mountain and Plains States during World War I. Small combines—6-foot and less cutting width—introduced during the early 1930's were responsible for bringing combine harvesting to many farmers in the Corn Belt, Northeast, Southeast—where acreages of small grains per farm is usually small. During the past few years self-propelled combines have been introduced and are becoming popular on some of the larger small grain farms and in rice farming areas.

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#### WOOL PRICE SUPPORTS

RESUME AUGUST 15 - The Department of Agriculture will resume the price support program on wool August 15, 1947. The program will continue through December 31, 1948.

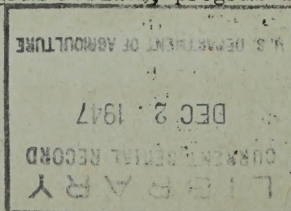
Wool owned by producers on August 15 will be eligible for purchase. The program will operate through wool handlers who will act as agents of the Commodity Credit Corporation in purchasing and handling wool. The support price schedule is in line with 1946 supports when the average grower price was slightly more than 42 cents a pound, grease basis. Some adjustments will be made this year between prices—more will be paid for fine wools and a little less for the lower grade wools for which there is less demand.

The program was re-established under new legislation passed by the 80th Congress and approved by the President. This legislation provides for price support at the 1946 level but makes it possible for CCC to sell its stocks on a competitive basis. Previous legislation required such wool be sold at not less than parity.

However, because of current generally good demand for finer grades of wool, an increase in the CCC selling price of 1 to 2 cents a pound for these grades has been announced. This action is based on indications that the world supply of fine grades will be short and demand continues strong due to heavy domestic demand for fine wool products and to resumed textile mills operations in war-torn countries.

Growers should get in touch with their regular handlers regarding disposition of their 1947 clip. By August 15 when the program resumes, program details and price schedules will be in dealers' hands.

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NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ADMINISTRATOR OPTIMISTIC  
ABOUT ACP

- Jesse B. Gilmer, National Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration, is confident that the public is aware of the need for a permanent Agricultural Conservation Program, according to his statement made at a recent visit at the State PMA Office.

"Surveys conducted and testimonials of National leaders of various organizations given at recent Congressional hearings convince me that the public is solidly behind the Agricultural Conservation Program and the farmer committee system," he said.

Mr. Gilmer, a graduate of New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, praised the State, County and Community Committeemen for their efforts in maintaining high agricultural production and urged the continuation of the maximum possible conservation.

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500 DOLLAR LIMIT

FOR 1948 - When Congress authorized an Agricultural Conservation Program for 1948 they specified that no producer could receive a payment in excess of \$500 in 1948.

Mr. C. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the State PMA Committee, urges farmers and ranchers to carry out as much conservation work as possible in 1947 while funds are not so limited.

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THE LAND OF

THE FREE -- Food has kept America free. American food is now being used to help keep liberty-loving nations of the world free. To maintain freedom we must maintain the soil. The Agricultural Conservation Program is dedicated to that cause.

ACP Committeemen have taken inventory of our agricultural conservation needs in New Mexico and some of the figures may surprise you. For example, they have estimated that an additional half million acres of cropland should be farmed on the contour; four hundred thousand acres need to be leveled for proper irrigation; and ranchers need 25 thousand more earthen tanks and about ten thousand more wells for proper livestock distribution on the range. These are only a few of the agricultural conservation needs to keep America free.

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FARMERS COOPERATE

IN BUILDING DAMS - A plow furrow on the farm of John Landry, Logan County, Nebraska, started it. Twenty-five years of washing turned the furrow into a gully more than 150 feet deep that was rapidly cutting several farms to pieces, burying several hundred acres under subsoil carried by the rushing waters.



Individuals who were being harmed could do nothing alone. They talked to their county Agricultural Conservation Committee. A plan was drawn up to put in 4 dams and a diversion terrace. The committee said that ACP could help but that the major share of the cost would have to be shared by those directly benefited. The farmers got the county to come in because stopping the erosion would cut down expense of maintaining roads.

The terrace and a draw-down tube have been put in and the 4 dams constructed. The largest of the dams required 75 hundred yards of dirt...the smallest took 16 hundred yards. It cost in all \$4500, with farmers and the county standing about two-thirds of the bill.

Now, the county committee reports, the gradual building back process is starting ...the gully is gradually filling with silt...the bottom lands are being restored to their former high productivity.

#### FARM PRODUCTION ESTIMATE

HIGH: CORN HOLDS KEY - While the nation's farms this year will probably produce a relatively large aggregate production of all crops, the uncertain corn crop continues to hold the key to continued record food output according to the August 1 crop report of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Corn prospects while improving during the first half of July received a setback during the latter half of the month as hot dry weather prevailed in the Central Corn Belt, particularly in Ohio and Iowa. The August 1 estimate for the 1947 corn crop is 2,660 million bushels, about 2 percent larger than the July 1 estimate. This is 19 percent short of the 1946 record production and the smallest since 1941 but still slightly above the 10-year average.

Most of the largest winter wheat crop in history had been harvested by August 1. Total production including both winter and spring is now estimated at 1,427,747,000 bushels and is 272 million bushels above last year's record crop. Winter wheat estimates showed a slight increase over the July 1 report but spring wheat due to lack of rain and heat across the Northern Plains shows an estimated decline of 11-1/3 million bushels from the earlier prediction. Spring wheat production still shows an increase of 50 million bushels over last year's 281 million bushel crop. Winter wheat is now figured at 1,095 million bushels.

The nation's total agricultural production as of August 1 is estimated at 2 percent above the 1942-46 average and only 2 percent below the record volume produced last year. This large total production is built up from a record volume of food grains, an above average outrun of feed grains, relatively large tonnages of oilseed crops, as well as a heavy production of fruits, vegetables and special crops. Record crops of wheat, rice, peaches and grapes are in the offing. Relatively heavy production is estimated for flaxseed, soybeans, buckwheat, tobacco, peanuts, sugarcane, sugar beets, pears, citrus and truck crops. Above average estimates are indicated for corn, hay, oats, barley, sorghum grains, beans, peas and apples. Rye and cotton while below average are well above 1946 production. Potatoes and sweet potatoes are below last year.



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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

THE GOLDEN EGG - As the story goes - Long long ago a farmer had a goose that laid a golden egg every day. The farmer was prosperous but to get rich quickly he decided to kill the goose. But, alas, when he killed the goose he found no eggs and, consequently, became very poor.

Today more and more farmers are learning that failure to carry out conservation practices needed on their farms is like killing the goose that laid the golden egg. They are participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

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NEW MEXICO TO HAVE TWO COUNTIES  
IN 1948 WHEAT INSURANCE PROGRAM

- Curry and Quay counties in New Mexico will have wheat crop insurance under the 1948 experimental program.

Wheat crop insurance was offered in 1200 counties throughout the country last year but will operate in only 200 during 1948. Recent legislation placed the program on an experimental basis.

Several factors were considered in selecting counties. Among them were:

1. Wheat had to be an important source of income in a county.
2. The county had to be representative of a wheat producing area.
3. Past crop insurance experience in the county had to be favorable.

The Crop Insurance Corporation has pointed out that selection of the counties was most difficult and many not selected have had successful wheat insurance programs. It was also emphasized that present counties selected are not necessarily permanent and it might be advisable in the future to choose other counties in order to get additional insurance experience.

The change in legislation does not affect the contracts covering 1947 wheat crops. But previous contracts written to cover a wheat crop in 1948 in a county where insurance will be discontinued were terminated by recent legislation.

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COTTON CROP INSURANCE AREAS  
NOW BEING CONSIDERED

- Consideration of the areas in which cotton crop insurance will be offered in 1948 is now under way.

Recent legislation placed the cotton insurance program on an experimental basis and limited the number of counties in which the 1948 program will operate to 56. Washington and field staffs of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation are selecting the counties and the final decision will be announced in September.

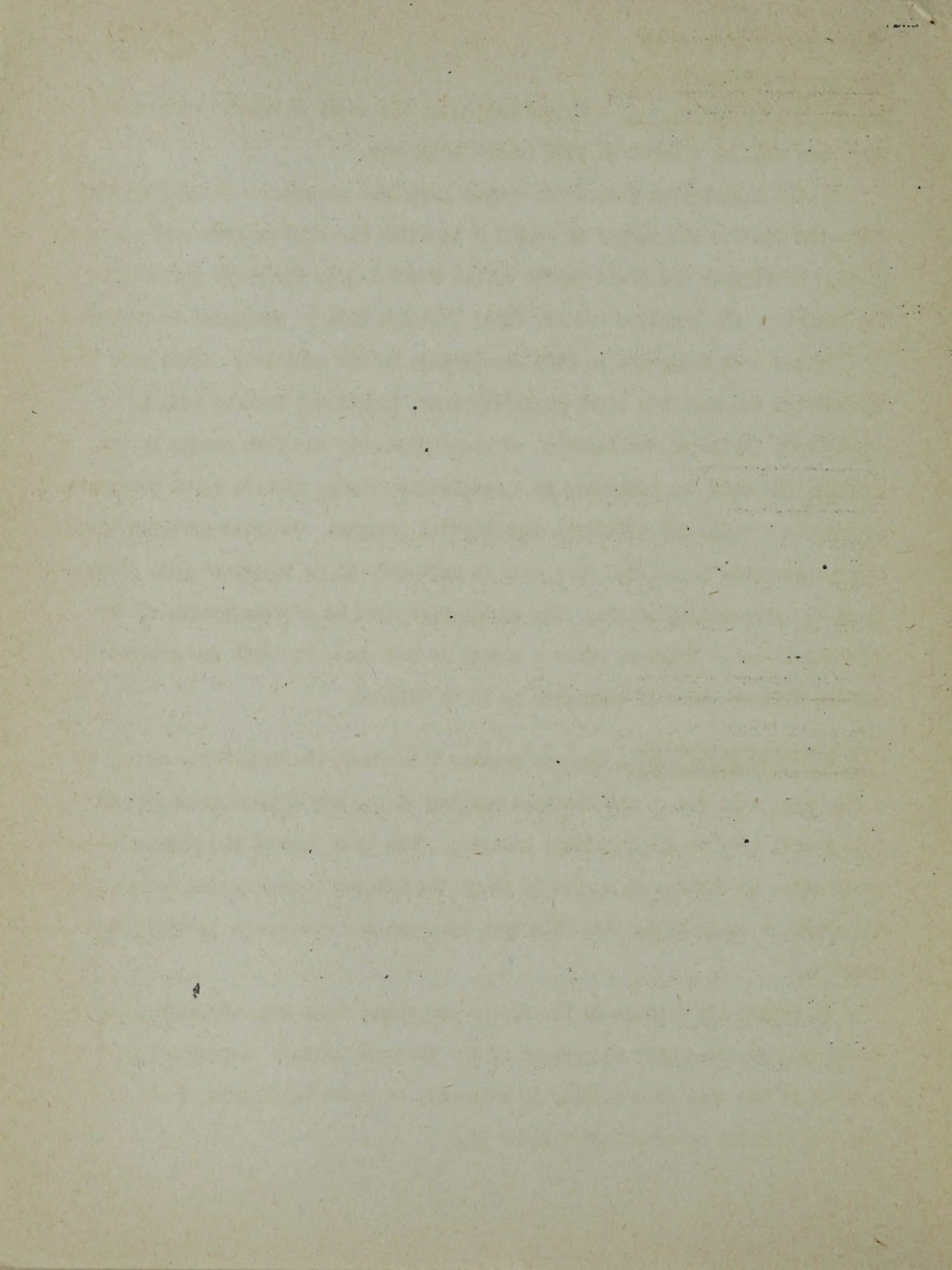
Cotton crop insurance in 1947 was written in 658 counties. Since more than 56 counties can meet the legal qualifications, additional factors must be considered, including the interest of local producers and farm groups in the program, the need for insurance in a particular county, and the local personnel to operate a sound and efficient experimental program. Congress provided that before insurance is offered on a crop it must make up an important part of the county's agricultural income. The county must also be representative of the production area. However, after a county is selected, at least 200 contracts must be written there if insurance is to be offered.

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CORN CROP PROSPECTS DOWN - Dry hot weather throughout the Corn Belt, coming at a time when corn was in the critical silking stage, has reduced prospects of this year's crop to 2,437 million bushels. This is a drop of 223 million below prospective production on August 1, about 202 million bushels below average, and the smallest since 1936. The 1946 corn crop set new records at 3,288 million bushels.

On August 15, farmers in the States producing about three-fourths of the total crop reported that 65 percent of the crop was silked. Assuming from 7 to 8 weeks as the time from silking to maturity, at least two-thirds of the crop would be matured on or before October 10.

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MORE CATTLE ON FEED - A lot of farmers have their eyes on the feed lots of the Middle West these days. Cattlemen wonder how many animals there are on feed now and when they will go to market...farmers who may have some soft corn this fall are curious about whether there will be enough cattle to eat it up.

The latest report of the Department of Agriculture shows the number of cattle that were on feed in the Middle West on August 1. There are nearly 40 percent more than on August 1, 1946. But the number a year ago was the lowest on record. So this year's figure is still about 25 percent below the nearer-average figure of two years ago.

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WORLD FOOD SHORTAGE

TO CONTINUE - The world will be faced with a food problem for several years. Reports of the Food and Agriculture Organization indicate that there will be a grain deficit for another year; a rice shortage for four or five years more; and a scarcity of fats and oils and livestock products until 1950 at least.

'OLD DOBBIN' NUMBERS DECLINE - There are now almost one-fourth fewer horses in the world than before the war. Horses numbered 75.2 million in 1946, about 19.5 million below the 1934-38 average.

Reasons for the decline from 1938 to 1946 are mechanization of agriculture in certain areas, including the U. S., and wartime losses in devastated areas

The largest decline from prewar occurred in the Soviet Union, where numbers in 1946 were 49 percent below the 1934-38 average. Instead of the prewar 16 percent, the Soviet Union last year had about 10 percent of the world's horses.

Europe still retains 24 percent of the world's total although numbers there have declined 21 percent below prewar.

